

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03126 180348Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
SP-02 L-01 NSC-05 ACDA-10 NSAE-00 /049 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 700

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3126

LIMDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG, NL, VT
SUBJECT: THE VATICAN AND THE N-BOMB

1. VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI CONFIRMED TO US FEBRUARY 16 THAT THE POPE HAD RECEIVED LETTERS FROM BREZHNEV AND FROM THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCH SUGGESTING THAT THE POPE CONDEMN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE N-BOMB, BUT THAT THE POPE HAD NOT YET MADE A WRITTEN REPLY. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EC-NINE COUNTRIES HAD DECIDED TO REPLY SEPARATELY, IMPLYING THAT THE VATICAN WAS FOLLOWING VERY CLOSELY THE SUBJECT. IN TELLING US THAT, HE IS DRAFTING THE REPLIES AND IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S PRESENTATION ON THE ISSUE ON JANUARY 26 AND OUR OWN PRESENTATION OF JANUARY 9 (ROME 0513), HE DID NOT CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO RECOMMEND THAT THE POPE CONDEMN THE N-BOMB SPECIFICALLY EITHER IN THE LETTERS OR PUBLICLY.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT DETECT ANY CHANGE IN CASAROLI'S PREVIOUS INCLINATION FOR AVOIDING SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION, IF THERE SHOULD DEVELOP A CHORUS OF CONDEMNATION (ALONG LINES OF THE RECENT NETHERLANDS' COUNCIL OF CHURCHES UNANIMOUS DECISION TO CONDEMN THE
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N-BOMB, REPORTED IN THE HAGUE 785), THE PRESSURE ON THE VATICAN TO BREAK ITS SILENCE WOULD BE INCREASED. WE HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT THIS OFFICE WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ISSUE AND OF ANY FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS THE U.S. MAKES TO ALLIED AND NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, NUCLEAR BOMBS
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Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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